

F.Y.I.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PAYOUT TOPS \$200 MILLION IN 2003

Idaho Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants received a total of \$206,811,629 in 2003. This was a decrease of 4.9 percent from 2002 when a record \$217.4 million was paid out. This decrease is reflective of the improved employment picture experienced in 2003.

FYI Table 1 on page 22 provides the county-by-county details of UI benefits paid in 2003. This table includes the various UI programs that were operative during 2003: the regular or basic program, programs for unemployed federal government workers and ex-military members, workers unemployed due to international trade imbalances, and an extended benefits program—Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC).

Unemployed workers must qualify as eligible to receive benefits, and the amount they can receive is based upon their work history. Eligibility is complicated, but essentially is extended to persons who worked for an employer(s) (who had to pay UI taxes or was “covered”) for a sufficient time (two of the last five quarters of a year) and earned a minimum amount, but became unemployed through no fault of their own, who is available for work, and is looking for work. After a claimant’s basic eligibility is determined, the claimant’s wage history is used to determine a benefit amount and duration.

The minimum benefit amount for a claimant in 2003 was \$51.00 per week. The maximum amount was \$316.00 per week until June 30, 2003, and \$320.00 per week thereafter. The minimum benefit period was 10 weeks and the maximum was 26 weeks for the basic program. The TEUC program extended the regular benefit period by one-half the number of weeks of basic entitlement.

The factors that determine the total benefits paid out by the program includes the number of claimants, duration of claim period, and weekly benefit amount; it is not based just on the number of claimants. For example, FYI Table 1 on page 22 shows that Cassia and Shoshone Counties had almost an equal number of persons receiving first payments: 1,427 and 1,444, respectively, giving Shoshone 17 more claimants. Cassia County claimants had a longer average duration of weeks paid resulting in greater number of total weeks paid. Yet the total amount of benefits paid in Shoshone

County exceeded that of Cassia County by slightly more than \$150,000. The primary difference in the counties’ UI experience is that claimants in Shoshone County received an average weekly benefit amount of \$213.86 compared to Cassia’s \$191.87. The reason these amounts differ is that Shoshone County historically has had employment in higher-paying industries of mining, government, and some forest products. Cassia County is agriculture-based. Shoshone County’s average annual covered wage is about \$2,000 more than Cassia County’s and, presumably, this is reflected in the average benefit amount.

Ada and Canyon Counties, or the Boise MSA, combined to have about 36 percent of the first payment claimants and 38 percent of the weeks claimed. This proportion is roughly the same as the MSA’s share of the state’s labor force and employment. However, the MSA’s share of total benefits was 40 percent of the total. Ada County had the longest average duration at 14.18 weeks and one of the higher average benefit amounts at \$239.78. Ada County experienced an industry-wide employment downturn in its electronics manufacturing industries and those who lost their jobs were often relatively high-paid. Because it was an industry-wide downturn, there were fewer opportunities for the laid-off workers to find similar jobs, hence the longer duration.

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

One way to measure the relative strength of an area’s economy is to compare it with other areas. Unemployment rates are often used as a comparative measure. Idaho has fared better than some of its western neighbors as shown on FYI Table 2 on page 23.

Selected Economic Indicators

FYI Table 3 on page 24 presents another set of comparative economic statistics: Idaho and the United States. The table shows that for the last six years, Idaho has fared better than the nation on most of the indicators. The exception is Idaho’s unemployment rate for 1998 to 2000.

Readers who are interested in a more detailed economic indicator package as well as projections of how the state’s economy might fare between now and 2007 are encouraged to read the latest *Idaho Economic Forecast* prepared by the economists in the Division of Fi-

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FYI Table 1: Amount of Idaho Unemployment Insurance Payments by County, CY2003—All Entitlements

FIPS	County	Number of Weeks Paid	Dollar Amount Paid	Individuals Receiving First Payment	Average Weeks Paid Per Individual	Average Weekly Benefit Amount
1	Ada	218,374	\$52,361,660	15,401	14.18	239.78
3	Adams	6,138	1,376,378	469	13.09	224.24
5	Bannock	52,451	11,313,675	4,080	12.86	215.70
7	Bear Lake	2,945	687,125	231	12.75	233.32
9	Benewah	10,932	2,659,691	982	11.13	243.29
11	Bingham	25,193	5,292,899	2,376	10.60	210.09
13	Blaine	14,444	3,667,486	1,196	12.08	253.91
15	Boise	4,525	1,081,984	349	12.97	239.11
17	Bonner	34,593	7,411,217	2,795	12.38	214.24
19	Bonneville	37,623	8,608,863	3,178	11.84	228.82
21	Boundary	10,650	2,472,152	867	12.28	232.13
23	Butte	1,728	422,425	140	12.34	244.46
25	Camas	687	179,877	50	13.74	261.83
27	Canyon	141,423	30,250,567	10,919	12.95	213.90
29	Caribou	5,435	1,329,559	455	11.95	244.63
31	Cassia	18,323	3,515,547	1,427	12.84	191.87
33	Clark	510	117,591	57	8.95	230.57
35	Clearwater	8,898	2,087,201	743	11.98	234.57
37	Custer	3,420	767,525	273	12.53	224.42
39	Elmore	14,831	3,037,530	1,120	13.24	204.81
41	Franklin	1,822	365,621	139	13.11	200.67
43	Fremont	7,866	1,737,513	718	10.96	220.89
45	Gem	12,666	2,770,960	968	13.08	218.77
47	Gooding	7,438	1,526,204	596	12.48	205.19
49	Idaho	13,963	3,120,468	1,157	12.07	223.48
51	Jefferson	8,974	2,120,789	759	11.82	236.33
53	Jerome	11,429	2,421,756	889	12.86	211.90
55	Kootenai	84,145	17,868,749	6,853	12.28	212.36
57	Latah	12,672	2,987,078	1,059	11.97	235.72
59	Lemhi	7,222	1,479,643	573	12.60	204.88
61	Lewis	879	178,795	72	12.21	203.41
63	Lincoln	3,299	827,960	286	11.53	250.97
65	Madison	5,803	1,271,050	545	10.65	219.03
67	Minidoka	23,480	4,470,427	1,835	12.80	190.39
69	Nez Perce	19,991	4,283,319	1,614	12.39	214.26
71	Oneida	987	221,271	70	14.10	224.19
73	Owyhee	1,343	273,994	102	13.17	204.02
75	Payette	13,776	2,668,806	1,145	12.03	193.73
77	Power	7,158	1,464,785	660	10.85	204.64
79	Shoshone	17,101	3,657,154	1,444	11.84	213.86
81	Teton	1,859	450,682	176	10.56	242.43
83	Twin Falls	40,305	8,048,732	3,347	12.04	199.70
85	Valley	9,503	2,064,232	786	12.09	217.22
87	Washington	8,162	1,483,856	620	13.16	181.80
ID Counties Only		934,966	\$206,404,796	73,521	12.72	220.76
Unknown Counties		1,867	406,834	265	7.05	217.91
Total Idaho		936,833	\$206,811,629	73,786	12.70	220.76
41045	Malheur County, OR	3,924	733,192	385	10.19	186.85
53003	Asotin County, WA	4,842	977,927	403	12.01	201.97
88888	Other contiguous county	8,584	1,999,751	603	14.24	232.96
99999	Interstate Liable	39,174	9,543,276	2,684	14.60	243.61
Total Interest		56,524	\$13,254,146	4,075	13.87	234.49
Total Payments		993,357	\$220,065,775	77,861	12.76	221.54

nancial Management, Office of the Governor. The forecast is published four times a year and is available online at: <http://www2.state.id.us/dfm/ief/Forecast.html>.

IDAHO TOPPED NATION IN STATE PERSONAL INCOME GROWTH RATE

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) recently released its preliminary estimates of State Personal Income for the 3rd quarter (July-Sept.), 2003. Idaho's Personal Income increased by 2.2 percent from the previous quarter. This percent change was the highest of any state and double the national percent change of 1.1 percent. The value of the change is estimated to be \$763 million. In contrast to the 2.2 percent change from the 2nd to the 3rd quarter, the change between the 1st quarter 2003 to the 2nd quarter 2003 was only 0.5 percent. BEA stated that increased farm earnings were the primary reason for Idaho's growth rate.

Idaho's Total Personal Income as of the 3rd quarter 2003 was estimated to be \$35,586 million. This amount is only 0.4 percent of the nation's Total Personal Income.

FYI Table 2: Annual Average Unemployment Rate

State	2002	2003
Alaska	7.7	8.0
Arizona	6.2	5.6
California	6.7	6.7
Colorado	5.7	6.0
Idaho	5.8	5.4
Montana	4.6	4.7
Nevada	5.5	5.2
New Mexico	5.4	6.4
Oregon	7.5	8.2
Utah	6.1	5.6
Washington	7.3	7.5
Wyoming	4.2	4.4

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Panhandle News — (continued from page 8)

- Golf Digest selected The Club at Black Rock's golf course as the best new private course of 2003. The Club at Black Rock, developed by Marshall Chessown, is an upscale development with 375 home sites centered on the golf course and overlooking Lake Coeur d'Alene's Rockford Bay.
- Harrison, a town of 270 residents on the south side of Lake Coeur d'Alene, recently celebrated the opening of The Landing, a restaurant in the former Rose Café building. The Landing serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
- Dalton Gardens, a city of 2,300 residents between Coeur d'Alene and Hayden, recently welcomed As Seen on TV & Unique Gift store at 6880 Government Way. The store features kitchen gadgets, garden equipment, and other items featured in infomercials.
- Rathdrum, a city of 5,200 residents 12 miles northwest of Coeur d'Alene, recently welcomed Aspen Leaf Floral and Gift at 6600 West Commercial Avenue; Rathdrum Clinic Family Practice, featuring medical doctor Michael Whitting and massage therapist Susan Whitting, at 14755 North Kimo Court; and Rathdrum Physical Therapy in the same building as the medical practice.

Shoshone County

- Wallace, a city of 900 residents, received a grant from the Idaho Heritage Trust to help repair the city's historic swimming pool. Built in 1939 as a federal public works project, the pool has served generations of Wallace children.
- Mark Schram and his wife Carey opened a manufacturing plant last fall that makes tent camper trailers in Osburn, a city of 1,500 residents. With assistance from the Silver Valley Economic Development Corporation, the Schrams secured some economic development grant monies and started El Shaddai Manufacturing. Currently, they employ two people who make everything for the trailers except the axles and wheels. The trailers include tents that can be opened in 30 seconds, a bed, and a cargo area that can be accessed from outside and inside the camper.
- Cindy Choat recently opened Cinderella's Cottage at 255 East Oregon Street in Mullan, a city of 800 residents. She makes and sells ceramics, soaps, bath salts, ceramic tiles, perfumes, and glass pieces.

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FYI Table 3: State of Idaho Economic Indicators, 1998-2003

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	% Change From 2002- 2003	1998- 2003
POPULATION*	1,252,330	1,275,674	1,299,610	1,321,585	1,343,124	1,366,332		
Idaho % Change	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.7	9.1
U.S. % Change	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	5.4
LABOR FORCE BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE								
Civilian Labor Force	653,056	651,090	657,712	681,558	684,749	692,543	1.1	6.0
Unemployment	32,839	33,697	31,914	33,274	39,683	37,440	-5.7	14.0
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0	5.2	4.9	4.9	5.8	5.4		
Total Employment	620,217	617,393	625,798	648,283	645,066	655,103	1.6	5.6
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.5	4.2	4.0	4.8	5.8	6.0		
NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS								
Idaho Employment	520,506	538,148	558,588	568,033	568,203	571,747		
Idaho % Change	2.6	3.4	3.8	1.7	-0.1	0.6	0.6	9.8
U.S. % Change	2.6	2.4	2.2	0.2	-0.9	-0.3	-0.3	3.2
IDAHO AGRICULTURE EMPLOYMENT	34,064	34,496	34,417	34,088	35,331	39,852	12.8	17.0
UI DATA - All Programs								
Weeks Paid	564,201	554,334	536,562	701,984	982,850	936,833	-4.7	66.0
Dollars Paid	\$100,251,341	\$105,459,964	\$106,609,870	\$149,629,576	\$217,384,029	\$206,811,629	-4.9	106.3
Covered Employers (Public & Private Units)	43,165	44,299	45,408	46,422	46,601	48,323	3.7	11.9
INCOME							2001-2002	1998-2002
Total Personal Income (thousands of dollars)	\$27,065,907	\$28,901,240	\$31,176,612	\$32,362,804	\$33,605,364	INA*		
Idaho Percent Change	7.3	6.8	7.9	3.8	3.8		3.8	24.2
US Percent Change	7.1	4.9	3.8	3.3	2.5		2.5	19.9
Personal Per Capita Income	\$21,612	\$22,656	\$23,987	\$24,506	\$25,057	INA*		
Idaho Percent Change	5.2	4.8	5.9	2.2	2.2		2.2	15.9
US Percent Change	5.8	3.7	6.7	2.2	1.4		1.4	14.6
U.S. Consumer Price Index (All Items 1985-1984)								
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	159.7	163.2	168.9	173.5	175.9	179.8	2.2	10.1
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	163.0	166.6	172.2	177.1	179.9	184.0	2.3	10.4
*State Personal Income will be released Spring 2004								
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, COMPILED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES								
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